SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

530 Liberty St.
Schenectady, NY 12305

www.schenectadyschools.org

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Dear Schenectady City School District Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer and found time to create special memories together. To our returning families, welcome back. And to those joining the Schenectady City School District for the first time, welcome to our community. We are glad you are here.

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year. It brings renewed energy, new possibilities, and another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our young people.

Across our district, our administrators, teachers, and staff have been working hard to prepare for the return of our students. Our goal is simple: every student should walk through our doors knowing they are seen, valued, supported, and capable of achieving great things.

This year, our theme is The Year of Impact: Every Moment Matters.

It is grounded in a belief that continues to guide our work in Schenectady:

Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns. Every Moment Matters.
Because the moments matter.

Every day a student is in school matters. Every lesson matters. Every conversation matters. Every opportunity to encourage, challenge, support, and believe in a young person matters. When our schools and families work together, those moments can have an impact that lasts far beyond the classroom.

We cannot wait to welcome our students back on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026.**

Key Information & Daily Schedule

School Hours:

- Elementary School: 7:45 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.
- Middle School: 8:25 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- High School: 8:25 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Back-to-School Night schedule and additional important dates are included in the attached information packet.

School Supplies for Grades K–8
School supplies will once again be provided for all students in Grades K–8. This helps remove barriers for families while ensuring students have the essential tools they need to be ready to learn from day one.

Please Update Your Contact Information

Please review and update your household and student information through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Accurate contact information is essential to student safety and allows us to reach you quickly with important updates.

Information regarding the Publicity and Media Opt-Out Form is also included in the attached packet.

Every Day Matters

One of the most important things we can do together for our students is make sure they are in school, on time, and ready to learn every day.

Consistent attendance supports achievement, strengthens relationships, and keeps students connected to their school community. Missing even a few days can add up over time, so we are asking every family to make attendance a priority beginning with the first day of school.

When challenges arise that make regular attendance difficult, please reach out. We want to partner with you, identify barriers, and help.

Important Updates for 2026-2027

A few important updates will help strengthen learning and communication this year:

- Cell Phone Policy: SCSD will continue a bell-to-bell restriction on personal cell phones and electronic devices during the school day, consistent with New York State requirements. Our goal is to protect instructional time and help students remain present, engaged, and focused on learning.

- ParentSquare: We are excited to launch ParentSquare, our new districtwide school-to-family communication platform, bringing announcements, classroom updates, direct messages, and other important information together in one place.

- Infinite Campus Parent Backpack: Academic report cards will now be available digitally through Infinite Campus, and registration for district after-school programs and extracurricular activities will also take place through Parent Backpack.

Additional information about these updates is included in the attached packet.

Investing In Our Schools

Our work to improve learning environments across Schenectady continues.

Construction is underway on a new central commissary kitchen at Mont Pleasant Middle School, renovations continue at Schenectady High School, and the Keane Elementary School community will temporarily relocate to the Fulton facility while extensive renovation and expansion work takes place.

These investments are about more than buildings. They are about creating the safe, modern, welcoming learning environments our students deserve.

We are also preparing to launch our 2030 Strategic Plan public dashboard, continuing our commitment to keeping our community informed about our progress and the work still ahead.

Looking Ahead
As Superintendent, there is nothing more important to me than the responsibility our community has entrusted to us: the education, safety, and future of your children.

I do not take that responsibility lightly.

Our students deserve to know that they belong. They deserve to be challenged. They deserve opportunities. And they deserve adults throughout our district who believe in what they can become.

That is what The Year of Impact is about. Because impact does not always happen in one big moment. Sometimes it is a teacher who refuses to give up on a student. Sometimes it is a parent making sure their child gets to school. Sometimes it is a staff member who notices a student having a difficult day and asks, “Are you okay?” Sometimes it is a student deciding to try one more time.
Those moments matter. And when nearly 10,000 students, their families, our staff, and this community understand the power of those moments, imagine the impact we can have together.

Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns. Every Moment Matters.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support. I am excited about what lies ahead for Schenectady and look forward to another year of learning, growth, connection, and achievement. Enjoy these final days of summer.

We will see our students on Tuesday, September 8.

Let’s make an impact, because every moment matters.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Carlos M. Cotto, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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Back to School Nights

Elementary School

September 14 5 p.m.	September 15 5 p.m.	September 24 5 p.m.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	Keane	Howe
Hamilton	Lincoln	Yates
Van Corlaer	Paige	Zoller
Woodlawn	Pleasant Valley	

Middle Schools

Central Park, Mont Pleasant, Oneida
September 17, 6 p.m.

High School

Steinmetz Freshman Leadership Academy
September 23, 6 p.m.

Big Picture
September 24, 6 p.m.

Schenectady High School
September 28, 6 p.m.

Early College High School
September 30, 6 p.m.



BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

All students in the Schenectady City School District are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch each school day. The daily menu is available on our website and mobile app.

MEAL MODIFICATION

Please let us know if your child requires special dietary accommodations. Please scan the code to download the form. The form must be completed and signed by a parent and physician.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY & IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Transportation will be provided to eligible students as follows:

- Grades Pre-K through 5: For students who attend school more than 1 mile from home.
- Grades 6-12: For students who attend school more than 1.5 miles from home.
- Disabled or Special Needs Students: In accordance with recommendations from the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

Important: Please ensure your contact information is up to date. You will receive detailed transportation information in the mail prior to the start of the school year.

Should you have any questions, the District Transportation Office is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and can be reached at 518-370-8103.

STAY CONNECTED: UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

The fastest and easiest way to update your contact information is through the Parent Portal. You can submit changes to your phone number and email address directly from your computer or phone at any time. To submit a change, log in to Infinite Campus/Parent Portal and click on “More” at the bottom of the menu.

If you prefer to update in person, you can visit the school's main office during business hours. A staff member can help you submit updates to your email and phone number on-site. We are asking that you confirm or update your contact information at this time.

For changes to your home address, please contact the Student Registration Office. Call the Student Registration Office at 518-881-3771.

CODE OF CHARACTER, CONDUCT AND SUPPORT

The Schenectady City School District's Code of Character, Conduct, and Support is an essential resource for all students, families, and staff. It outlines our expectations for a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment.
You can easily access this important document:

- At your child’s school
- On the district website: www.schenectadyschools.org
- By scanning the QR code to the right.

You can access the electronic acknowledgement by scanning the QR code.

CHILD FIND NOTICE

If you have concerns about your child's physical, social, or academic progress, or if you suspect your child has a disability that may be affecting their educational performance and requires special education, please contact your school principal. To make a referral to the Committee on Special Education (CSE), speak directly with your principal. For any questions, please call 518-881-3413

IMPORTANT
Update Your Contact Information



Why?

Keeping your contact information current with your child's school is extremely important. It's how we ensure clear and consistent communication with families through email, text messages, and phone calls.

In addition to crucial emergency notifications and important school-wide announcements, your correct contact information is necessary to receive communications from the ParentSquare communication tool. This includes email and text messages sent through the platform that allow you to connect directly with teachers for classroom updates, assignments, and secure two-way messaging.

By keeping your information current, you ensure you don't miss any vital information about your child's education and well-being.

Questions

Call your child's school or the Student Registration Office at 518-881-3771.

How to Update Your Contact Information

Parent Portal 💻

The fastest and easiest way to update your information is through the Parent Portal. You can submit changes to your phone number and email address directly from your computer or phone at any time. To submit a change, log in to Infinite Campus/Parent Portal and click on "More" at the bottom of the menu.

At Your Child's School 🏫

If you prefer to update in person, you can visit the school's main office during business hours. A staff member can help you submit updates to your email and phone number on-site.

Student Registration Office ✏️

For changes to your home address, please contact the Student Registration Office. This office is responsible for updating all address, email, and phone number changes for student records.

HEALTH EXAMS

New York State Education Law Article 19 and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (specifically 8 NYCRR Part 136) require public school students to have physical examinations as follows:

- Upon entering the school district for the first time, regardless of grade level.
- In specific grades: Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade.
- At any grade level at the discretion of the school administration to promote the educational interests of the student.
- To participate in strenuous physical activity, such as interscholastic athletics.
- For students who need work permits.
- When conducting an individual evaluation or re-evaluation of a students suspected of having a disability or a student with a disability.

2026-2027 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

This is a reminder that New York State Public Health Law mandates that all students enrolled in public school must provide documentation of having received all required doses of vaccines.

For the 2026-2027 School Year, if your child needs any of the required vaccinations and the school has not received the necessary documentation within the first 14 days of school, your child will unfortunately not be allowed to attend. This is a strict state requirement for the health and safety of all students.

Scan the QR code for quick access to the complete list of immunization requirements for school entrance and attendance.

Please ensure your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that we have the proper documentation on file well before the start of the school year. If you have any questions or need to submit records, please contact your school's health office immediately.

IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

For the health and safety of our entire school community, please do not send your child to school if they are sick. If your child will be absent due to illness, please call your school nurse. Additionally, please ensure you have arrangements in place for your child to be picked up from school unexpectedly, should they become ill during the school day.

ATTENDANCE



As we prepare for a successful school year, we want to highlight the incredible importance of daily attendance. While an occasional absence might seem minor, consistent presence at school is truly foundational to your child's success.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of school. That comes down to 18 days in a school year.

Here's why every single day in the classroom makes a difference:

- **Learning Builds Daily**: Our curriculum is designed to build knowledge step-by-step. Missing even one day can mean missing crucial concepts that are essential for understanding future lessons. It's like missing a key puzzle piece – it makes it harder to complete the whole picture.
- **Stronger Connections:** Being in school every day helps your child build stronger relationships with their teachers and classmates. These connections foster a sense of belonging, making school a more engaging and positive place.
- **Routine and Responsibility:** Regular attendance helps children develop vital routines, responsibility, and discipline – skills that extend far beyond the classroom and prepare them for future success in life.
- **Catching Up Can Be Hard:** When a child misses school, they don't just miss the lesson; they also miss discussions, in-class activities, and direct interaction with their teacher. Catching up can be stressful and lead to falling behind.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to illness or family emergencies.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS UNDER FERPA: ACCESSING STUDENT RECORDS

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents and students aged 18 and older ("eligible students") have important rights concerning their educational records.

You have the right to:

- Inspect and review official records related to you or your child. This includes, but is not limited to, progress reports, grades, aptitude and achievement test scores, psychological tests, and teacher evaluations.
- Challenge a record if you believe it is inaccurate or misleading.

Please be advised that the school district will not disclose information from student records without the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student, except as permitted by law. A record of all requests for information disclosures is maintained and may be viewed by those eligible.

For questions or to exercise your FERPA rights, please contact Student Support Services at 518-881-3806.

INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL AND BACKPACK

Unlock easy access to your child's academic progress, attendance, and important school updates.
If you are not yet signed up for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, we encourage you to do so today. Access the link and login details via our district mobile app, on the right-hand side of our district website, or simply scan the QR code to get started. (See Attached Flyer)

We're thrilled to announce a new feature in our student information system designed to make your life easier. We've added a "Backpack" where you'll be able to conveniently access important documents like report cards, transcripts, and assessment scores. You can find your student's Backpack right within the Infinite Campus Portal.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & STAY CONNECTED IN YOUR LANGUAGE

Stay instantly connected with Schenectady Schools by downloading our official mobile app.
You can find it on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Simply search for "Schenectady Schools" to download.

Once you have the app, you'll receive important alerts and push notifications directly to your device.

PARENTSQUARE

We're excited to share that we've adopted a new communication platform called ParentSquare to help us keep you better informed and more connected with your classroom and school. With ParentSquare, you'll receive all school and classroom messages in one place and translated into your preferred language, whether by email, text, app, or web. You'll also be able to:

- Stay up to date on news and events
- Send and receive messages with teachers and staff
- Fill out forms and permission slips
- Sign up for conferences and volunteer opportunities
- View calendar items and photos from your school

All school, grade-level, and classroom communications will now come through ParentSquare.

ParentSquare

To get the most out of ParentSquare, we encourage you to download the free mobile app, available for iOS and Android. You can also access ParentSquare from your web browser at www.parentsquare.com.

We'll be sharing more information soon, including how to set up your account and customize your notification preferences.

Stay Connected

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Infinite Campus is a student information system used by the Schenectady City School District. It provides parents with access to important information about their child's education, including:

- Schedule
- Attendance
- Grades
- Behavior
- Health information
- State and district assessment results
- The ability to view and print report cards

How to Register for Infinite Campus

To register for an Infinite Campus account, you should email your request to **registration@schenectadyschools.org**

Be sure to include your full name and the names of your children. The district will then send you an email with an activation code and instructions on how to set up your account.

Do You Have Questions or Need Assistance?

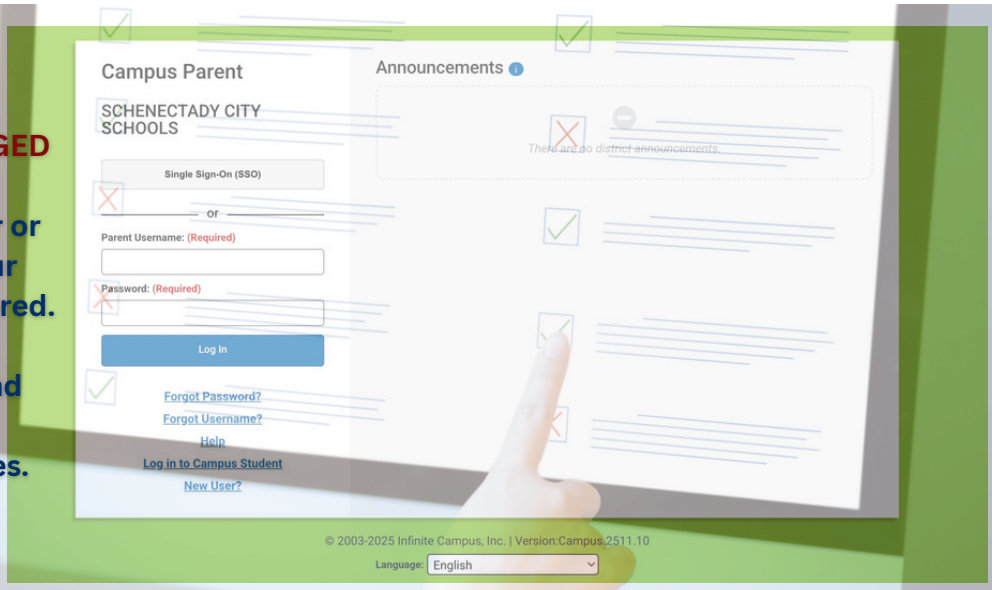
If you need help with your account or have not received the activation email, please submit a question through our "Let's Talk" communication tool. This can be accessed via a link on the district's website or by scanning the code to the right.

"Let's Talk" is a platform that allows you to submit questions or concerns on various topics, including the Parent Portal, and you will receive a response from a member of the school district team.

GET CONNECTED. STAY ENGAGED

Whether you're a desktop user or prefer the convenience of our mobile app, we've got you covered.

Both options give parents and students visibility into the classroom and school activities.



Scan the code for more information.

PARENT PORTAL BACKPACK

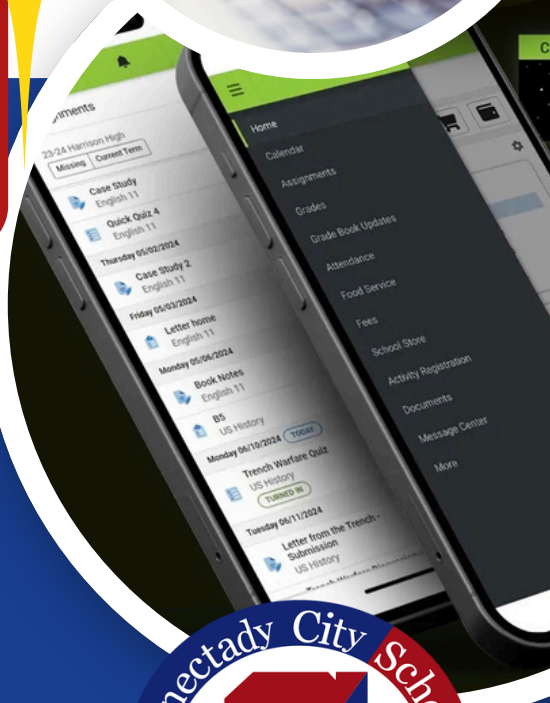


The Parent Portal Backpack is a secure area in the Parent Portal where you can access your student's official important school documents, including report cards. **You receive a notification when new documents are added.**



In the Backpack

- Report Cards & Progress Reports
- iReady Assessment Scores
- NYS Assessment Scores
- Letters and Notifications From Your School



How to Access the Parent Portal Backpack

- You must have access and login information for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

  To sign up, please provide your email address to registration@schenectadyschools.org

  Please include your name and the names of your children.

  You will then receive an email with an activation code and steps on how to access your account.

  If you need assistance or did not receive an email, please submit a Let's Talk.

- Log In to the Parent Portal. Click on "More" located on the left-hand menu. It's the last option.
- Select "Backpack"

Schenectady City Schools Est. 1854

PARENT PORTAL

Infinite Campus is the student information system of the Schenectady City School District. Parents who register to use it, have access to their child's schedule, attendance, grades, behavior, health, state and district assessment and other information. The Backpack is a specialized module within the platform, designed specifically for document storage

- **Documents that need attention**
- **Assignments due today**
- **You can update your phone numbers and email**
- **Recent assignment scores and grade updates**
- **Real time attendance**
- **Forms**
- **Surveys**
- **New York State Assessment Scores**
- **Behavior Information**

What is the different between the Parent Portal and the Campus Backpack?

- The Parent Portal is like your student's live dashboard—it tells you what's happening now (their current homework grade, if they were tardy today, etc.).
- The Campus Backpack is like a digital filing cabinet—it holds the permanent records that are issued periodically (like their finalized report card).

24/7 access to grades, assignments, attendance, schedules, and more.

Get Connected Today!

Signing up for an account and accessing the dashboard and backpack is easy.



See other side or scan QR code for more information

The App is available on Google Play and the Apple Store

Updating Your Information and Publicity Opt-Out

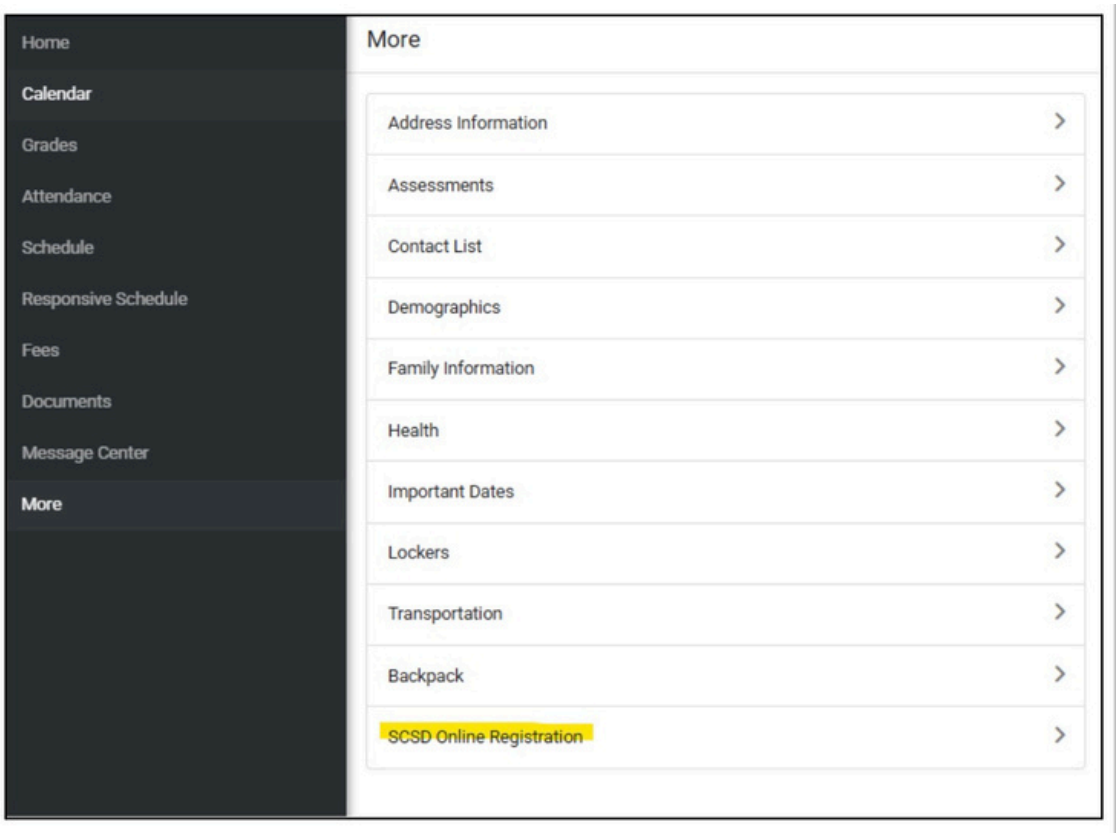
As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we request all returning families to review and update their household and student census information in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Keeping your contact information, emergency contacts, and medical preferences current ensures we can reach you quickly with important school updates and during emergencies.

We love to celebrate our students' achievements and experiences. Our programs, events, and activities involving students are sometimes featured in the news or shared across our school and district print and electronic platforms, including our website, mobile app and social media sites.

How to Complete Your Census Update

1. Log in to your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account.
2. Select More from the main navigation menu on the left.
3. Click SCSD Online Registration
4. Select 26-27 Existing Student Registration and select "Start".
5. Review each section: Household, Emergency Contacts, Student Info, Student Publicity Opt Out, make any necessary updates, and click Submit.





Key Information & Support

- Forgot your password? Click the "Forgot Password" link on the portal login page or contact your school office.
- New Contact Details: If your primary home address has changed, you may be prompted to upload an updated proof of residency (e.g., utility bill, lease agreement) and Registration may reach out for additional information.
- Questions or Need Assistance? Fill out a " Let's Talk" under the category Parent Portal.

A**fter you are prompted to update your contact information, The Publicity Opt-Out is located under "Release Agreements."**

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT: ATTENDANCE SELF-REPORTING

In the Schenectady City School District, the safety, well-being, and academic success of our students are our highest priorities. To help us maintain accurate records and ensure every child is accounted for, we are writing to remind all families to complete the official Attendance Self-Reporting Form in the Parent Portal whenever your child will be absent or tardy.

Please scan the QR code to learn more about creating your parent portal login.

If you child is absent from school, we kindly request that you complete the absence form in the Parent Portal before 7:45 a.m. on the day of the absence. This is important to ensure your student's attendance records are accurate. This is also important for safety verification reasons.

This form is only to communicate absences and ensure that proper reason is recorded. Students who miss 18 or more days of school in one year are considered chronically absent by New York State, even if the absences are executed.

REPORT CARDS

All academic report cards will be distributed through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal Backpack.

To access the the Backpack, login to your Parent Portal Account. On the menu click on “More” located on the left-hand menu (it’s the last option. Then select “Backpack.”

If you don’t have an account, you can create one by providing your email address to registration@schenectadyschools.org You will then receive an email with an activation code and steps on how to access your account.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS: HOW WE COMMUNICATE & WHAT TO EXPECT



When there is a school closing or delay due to weather or other emergencies, ensuring you receive timely information is our top priority. Here's how we'll keep you informed:

How We Communicate Closings & Delays:

- Local Media Channels: Tune into local TV and radio stations.
- District Website: A notification will be prominently posted on our official website.
- Social Media Platforms: Check our official social media pages for updates.
- District Mobile App: You'll receive instant alerts and push notifications through our
- “Schenectady Schools" app (download from Apple or Google Play).
- Direct Communication: We will also send out phone calls, text messages, and emails to your
- registered contact information.

Please ensure we have your updated contact information on file! This is crucial for you to receive these critical alerts directly. If your contact details have changed, please notify your child's school immediately.

Understanding Delay Schedules:

If there is a one-hour delay:

- The school day will begin one hour later than normal.
- Students who are transported will be picked up at their bus stop one hour later than their normal time.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served at school.

If there is a two-hour delay:

- The school day will begin two hours later than normal.
- Students who are transported will be picked up at their bus stop two hours later than their normal time.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served at school.
-

Your child's safety is our priority, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation regarding these procedures.

CONNECT TO US

Let’s Talk

We value your feedback and want to make it easy for you to connect with us! You can reach us through our "Let's Talk" platform at any time. Submit your questions, concerns, or ideas by going to our website and clicking on the "Let's Talk" button, or by scanning the QR code provided. You can also text to 518-900-7318.



Phone-Free Learning Environments

The Schenectady City School District is committed to fostering a productive, respectful, and focused environment for all students and staff. For the 2026–2027 school year, the district continues its cell phone policy designed to minimize distractions and ensure an engaging, efficient experience for everyone.

This policy aligns with New York State's mandate for bell-to-bell restrictions on cell phone use during instructional time. Our goal remains to create a learning environment where students can fully engage with their studies and peers without the interruptions often caused by personal electronic devices.

Policy Overview

Under this policy, cell phones and personal devices, including smartwatches, earbuds, and laptops, are not allowed in school from arrival until dismissal. This comprehensive restriction includes all areas of the school, such as classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, restrooms, and outdoor areas, as well as during lunch, recess, and passing periods.

Daily Procedures

Upon arrival, students must turn off their devices and secure them in the assigned storage pouch.

- Grades Pre-K - 5: Lockbox
- Grades 6-12: Yondr Pouch*

*Students are responsible for bringing pouches to and from school each day. If a student forgets their pouch, the device will be stored securely until dismissal.

Questions

Please direct questions to your child's principal or submit them through Let's Talk.

Visit the SCSD website for answers to frequently asked questions.

Guidelines by Grade

PRE-SCHOOL - GRADE 2

If a student brings a cell phone to school, it will be stored in a secure lockbox in the main office for the full school day.

Devices will not be accessible to students during the day and will be returned at dismissal.

GRADES 3 - 5

Students who bring a device will place it in a classroom lockbox upon arrival.

Devices will remain secure and inaccessible until dismissal.

GRADES 6 - 12

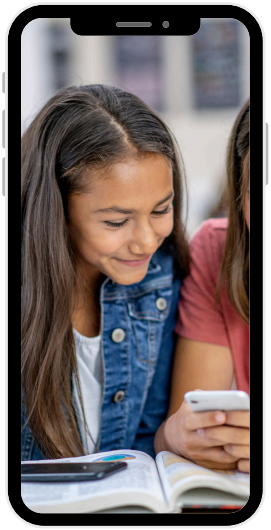
Students who bring a device to school will be provided with a secure, lockable pouch (Yondr pouch).

Students will keep their device sealed in the pouch and carry it or store it in their locker throughout the day.

Pouches will be unlocked at the end of the school day.

Expectations

Consequences for Non-Compliance



Students who do not comply with the Personal Electronic Device policy will face consequences as outlined in the SCSD Code of Character, Conduct, and Support. This includes confiscation of the device and disciplinary action for repeated non-compliance.

Our Commitment

Our commitment is to uphold this mandate to create the best possible educational environment for our students. We urge all students and families to thoroughly review and understand the new policy, including the expectations and benefits it will bring to our schools. This step is crucial in fostering a focused, engaging, and productive learning atmosphere for everyone in the Schenectady City School District.

How Parents Can Help

Discuss the Policy With Your Child:

- Go over the specific rules and consequences together.
- Explain the benefits from the child's perspective (better focus, more real-life fun with friends).
- Listen to and validate your child's concerns or frustrations, then redirect to the positive.

Utilize School Communication Channels:

- Rely on the school office for emergencies or messages during school hours, rather than trying to contact your child directly.

Support School Enforcement:

- Avoid undermining the policy in front of your child.
- If a consequence is applied, use it as a teaching moment about responsibility rather than challenging the school's decision unnecessarily.

Communication in a Distraction-Free School

What Parents Need to Know

For Urgent Matters or Emergencies During the School Day:

- **Call Your Child's School Directly:** This will be the primary and most reliable method for urgent communication. If you need to reach your child immediately due to an emergency or urgent situation, please call the main office.
    - Our school staff will be trained and prepared to handle situations efficiently. They will ensure your message is delivered to your child promptly, or your child will be called to the office to speak with you directly using a school phone.
    - If your child needs to reach you, they will be able to request to use a school phone in the main office or a designated area.

Commitment to Safety Updates

When there is a safety measure implemented at your child's school, we are committed to providing you with a status update as quickly as possible, whenever circumstances allow. Your child's safety is our highest priority, and clear communication is a critical part of our safety protocols. Please be sure your contact information is up-to-date so you receive our text messages and emails.

Benefits of a

Phone-Free Environment

This policy is designed to cultivate an optimal learning environment with significant benefits for our students and school community:

- **Improved student focus and concentration**: By minimizing digital distractions, students can fully engage with lessons and assignments.
- **Fewer distractions and disruptions to the learning process**: This will allow educators to maintain a more consistent and effective instructional flow.
- **Reduced instances of cyberbullying and other inappropriate online interactions:** Limiting device use during school hours creates a safer and more positive social environment.
- **More meaningful interactions between students and staff:** Without the constant pull of screens, students can connect more deeply with their peers and educators.
- **Reduced anxiety and stress:** A less digitally saturated environment can contribute to improved mental well-being for students.



WATER SAFETY

Under NYS Education Law Section 926, school districts must provide parents and guardians with information on safe swimming practices, water safety, and drowning prevention.

Tips for Safe Swimming
(Provided by the New York State Department of Health)

- Always swim with others, never enter the water alone. Keep an eye on each other.
- Always supervise your children around water.
  - Stay within arm's reach of a small child.
  - Lifeguards do not replace the need for close supervision by a caregiver.
- If you or your child has a medical condition such as a seizure disorder or heart condition, look out for symptoms that could put them at risk.
- Non-swimmers should avoid water greater than chest deep – even the "shallow end" of a pool is over chest deep for most young children.
- Learn basic swimming and water safety skills.
- If using life jackets remember, they do not take the place of continuous and close adult supervision.
  - Use of life jackets and other floatation devices when swimming can give a false sense of security and lead to entering water deeper than one's comfort level or swimming ability.
  - If you use one for swimming, choose a life jacket that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved (I-III label) and properly fitted.
  - Air-filled swimming aids, such as water wings and floats, should not be used in place of approved life jackets.
- Avoid drugs and alcohol while swimming. They slow reaction time and impair judgment.
- Never dive into water less than 8-feet deep or of unknown depth or water conditions.
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with rescue breathing, first aid, and calling 911 can save a life and minimize injury.
- Check the weather forecast if swimming outside – avoid inclement weather, wear sunscreen, and be aware of extreme heat or fatigue.
- Keep water safety in mind when boating and always follow safe boating practices, including wearing a life jacket.

SCAN QR CODE
FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Swimming and Your Health

- Avoid swimming in water that is cloudy or discolored.
- Avoid swallowing water while swimming and consider keeping your head and face out of the water.
- Wash your hands after swimming and playing in the sand, especially before eating.
- Don't pee or poop in the water.
- Stay out of the water if you are sick with diarrhea.
  - If you have cryptosporidiosis ("Crypto"), wait two weeks after your diarrhea stops before going back in the water.
- Stay out of the water if you have an open cut or wound.
- Learn more about healthy swimming from CDC.
- Learn more about protecting yourself from Legionella in hot tubs from CDC.

Drowning Prevention

Drowning can occur anywhere there is water; from lakes and pools to bathtubs and buckets.

Drowning happens quickly and quietly. People often think that if someone is not calling for help that they are not drowning.

Remember that when someone is drowning, they are trying to breathe, not speak. It may appear that the person is splashing or waving, but this may be an involuntary response to try to stay afloat. Progression from struggling to drowning can happen in as few as 20 seconds. Any delay in rescue can be fatal.

Who's at risk?

Each year, hundreds of people in New York State drown or are hospitalized for severe injuries. New York State Department of Health studies show kids and teens have the greatest risk of drowning.

What are the most common causes?

Children

- Lack of adult supervision around water, pools, bathtubs, and buckets of water. This is often at home – drowning can occur in as little as two inches of water.
- Pools that do not have four-sided fencing that isolates a home swimming pool from the house.
- Swimming alone or wandering into water.
- Swimming in public areas where there are no lifeguards.

Not using approved life jackets while swimming and boating.





SAFETY TIPS

Stay Alert. Stay Safe.

Safe Walking Habits

Plan a safe route
Choose a route that has sidewalks and busy, well-lit streets.

Walk with a group
Always try to walk with at least one friend.

Stay Alert
Avoid distractions like headphones or phones, and be
aware of surroundings.

Cross Streets Safely
Look left, right, and left again before crossing. Use crosswalks, and follow instructions from crossing guards.

Emergency Preparedness

Teach Emergency Numbers
Ensure your child knows their home phone number and emergency contacts.

Know Who to Trust
Teach children to go to trusted adults for help, such as teachers, coaches, or police officers.

Review Safety Rules Regularly

Stranger Danger Safety Tips

Define a stranger clearly
Explain to children that a stranger is anyone your family doesn't know. Help them identify "safe strangers," such as police officers, store clerks, and security guards, who they can ask for help if needed.

Never go with a stranger
Say “no” and stay far away from any stranger offering a ride or asking for help.

Don’t talk to strangers
Do not give strangers your name, address, or phone number.

Yell and run for help
If a stranger follows you, run in the opposite direction and yell “No” or “Help!” Go quickly from the person. Immediately tell a trusted adult what happened.

Yell for attention if grabbed
In an emergency, instruct your child to scream "This is not my mom!" or "This is not my dad!" and make as much noise as possible to attract attention.

Trust your instincts
If a situation feels wrong or uncomfortable, seek help immediately from a trusted adult.

Report suspicious behavior
Tell a trusted adult, like a teacher or police officer, if you see strangers hanging around the school, playground, public bathrooms or if approached on your way to or from school or the bus stop.

Prioritizing Student Safety Every Day

At Schenectady City School District, the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. To maintain a secure learning environment, our schools utilize standardized emergency response protocols to handle a variety of situations quickly and effectively. We believe that clear communication and partnership with our families are essential to keeping our school community safe. Please review the guide below to familiarize yourself with these standard emergency procedures and learn how they are put into action if a situation arises.

Our district has adopted the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and participating in drills throughout the school year.

There are five specific actions that can be implemented during an incident: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

During any emergency protocol, please do not come to the school or attempt to enter campus. Arriving on site can block emergency vehicles, disrupt law enforcement response, and unintentionally put you or others in danger. In addition, exterior doors will be locked and staff will be fully focused on student safety, meaning no one will be permitted to enter or leave the building until an "All Clear" is officially declared. We will keep you informed with timely updates through our official communication channels.

HOLD

A Hold is initiated when hallways need to be kept completely clear while learning continues inside the classroom.

- **The Goal:** To keep hallways clear of traffic for short periods.
- **Common Reasons:** Used for localized, non-life-threatening situations inside the building such as a medical emergency requiring a paramedic in the hallway, a large spill or physical maintenance issue, or a disruption.

SECURE

A Secure is initiated when there is a threat outside the building. All exterior doors are locked. All students and staff immediately move inside the school. Business continues inside as usual.

- **The Goal:** To secure the outer perimeter of the building and prevent external threats from entering, while keeping students and staff safe inside.
- **Common Reasons:** Used for activity occurring outside the building such as police activity in the surrounding neighborhood, a reported crime nearby, or dangerous wildlife on school grounds.

LOCKDOWN

A Lockdown is called when there is an immediate, active threat or danger inside the school building or directly on school grounds.

- **The Goal:** To secure all occupants inside rooms, hide from view, and make classrooms look and sound empty to minimize danger.
- **Common Reasons:** Triggered by an active or unauthorized intruder, a weapons threat, or any imminent physical danger inside the facility.

Students are trained to move away from sight, maintain silence and do not open the door.

EVACUATE

An Evacuate status is called when conditions inside the building are unsafe, requiring students and staff to move to a safer location either elsewhere on school grounds or off-site.

- **The Goal:** To move all occupants safely out of the building (or out of a specific section of the building) to a designated safe area.
- **Common Reasons:** Triggered by hazards inside the building such as a fire, alarm activation, smoke, chemical leak/smell, gas leak, structural damage, or post-incident relocation.

SHELTER

A Shelter protocol is called when personal protection is required due to environmental hazards, severe weather, or external safety risks near the school.

- **The Goal:** To protect students and staff from outdoor environmental hazards by taking specific, protective physical actions indoors.
- **Common Reasons:** Triggered by severe weather (tornadoes, high winds, severe thunderstorms), natural hazards, external chemical/hazmat spills in the community, or dangerous wildlife nearby.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND ACTIONS, SCAN QR CODE

School and Community

FOOD RESOURCES

Schenectady School Food Pantries
Each Schenectady school has a small food pantry to help with initial needs.
- Reach out to your school parent liaison for support

City Mission of Schenectady
427 Hamilton St.
Bagged lunches
- 24/7 (Welcome Center)

Sit down meals Mon,-Fri. 5-6 p.m. in dining center, 512 Smith St.

Sycamore Collaborative Food Pantry
839 Albany St., 12307
- Open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Salvation Army Schenectady Food Assistance
Community Meals Mon. - Fri.
- Breakfast: 7:30. - 8:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Food Pantry: Wed.- Fri. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Bethesda House Daily Meal and Food Pantries
Drop-In Center
834 State St.
Mon., Tues., Thurs., 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Food Pantry
- 2nd & 3rd Tuesday each month, 9 - 11 a.m.

P.G. Wright Food Pantry
2450 Van Vranken Ave
- 1st Monday of Month, 4 - 6 p.m.
- 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thursday of Month, 9 - 11 a.m.

State Street Food Pantry
State Street Presbyterian Church, 5 Catherine St.
- Mon. - Wed. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Thurs. by appointment only

First Reformed Church Schenectady
8 North Church Street
- Wednesday Lunch: 12 - 1 p.m.

St. Luke's Food Pantry
1235 State St.
By Appointment, 518-347-1385
- Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hope Answers Food Pantry
3 Morris Ave.
- Mon: 10 a..m - 12 p.m.

Bellevue Reformed Church Food Pantry
2000 Broadway, 12306
- Self-Serve Little Free Food Pantry

Bethel Northside Mobile Food Pantry
1840 Van Vranken Ave.
- 4 - 6 p.m. on 3rd Thurs. of the month

Our Lady of Fatima Church Food Pantry
1735 Alexander Rd., Delanson
- Food Pantry by Appointment Only (518) 895-2788

The Fresh Table of Scotia-Glenville
Pop-Up Pantry
Check website for events: https://freshtable.org/

Young Parents United Food Support
Book appointment on website
https://www.youngparentsunited.org/services

Community Resource Guide

Schenectady City Schools Est. 1854

SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY • SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3720

Principal: Shelette Pleat
pleats@schenectadyschools.org

HOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-370-8295

Principal: Chad Sitts
sittsc@schenectadyschools.org

KEANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3960

Principal: Kerri Messler
messlerk@schenectadyschools.org

KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3680

Principal: Kristin Munrett
munrettk@schenectadyschools.org

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3780

Principal: Clarisse Kaufman
kaufmanc@schenectdadyschools.org

PAIGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3520

Principal: Dr. Patrick Jean-Pierre
jeanp@schenectadyschools.org

PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3640

Principal: John Pizzo
pizzoj@schenectadyschools.org

VAN CORLAER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3980

Principal: Tanya Delamater
delamatert@schenectadyschools.org

WOODLAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-370-8280

Principal: John Perrault
perraultj@schenectadyschools.org

YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-370-8320

Principal: Terrance Sloan
sloant@schenectadyschools.org

ZOLLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
518-881-3880

Principal: Desmond O'Connor
oconnord@schenectadyschools.org

CENTRAL PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
518-370-8250

Interim Principal: John Heim

MONT PLEASANT MIDDLE SCHOOL
518-370-8160

Principal: Mark Brooks
brooksm@schenectadyschools.org

ONEIDA MIDDLE SCHOOL
518-370-8260

Principal: Tony Farina
farinat@schenectadyschools.org

SCHENECTADY HIGH SCHOOL
518-881-2044

Principal: Dennis Green
greend@schenectadyschools.org

STEINMETZ FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
518-881-3600

Principal: Justin Lansley
lansleyj@schenectadyschools.org

BIG PICTURE LEARNING
518-370-8225

Principal: Felicia Woods
woodsf@schenectadyschools.org

CITY AS OUR CAMPUS/ EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
518-881-2710

Principal: Christopher Chank
chankc@schenectadyschools.org

WASHINGTON IRVING EDUCATIONAL CENTER
518-370-8220

Director: Jesse Roylance
roylancej@schenectadyschools.org

SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR THE PARENT LIAISON DIRECTORY

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

SCSD FAMILIES

No School
- Sept. 21: Yom Kippur Holiday
- Oct. 12: Indigeneous Peoples Day Holiday
- Nov. 3: Superintendent's Conference Day
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day Holiday
- Nov. 26 - 27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 24 - Jan.1: Winter Recess
- Jan. 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Feb. 15 - 19: February Recess
- Mar. 10: Eid al-Fitr Holiday
- Mar. 22: Holi/Phagwa Holiday
- Mar. 26: Good Friday Holiday
- Mar. 29 - Apr. 2: Spring Recess
- May 31: Memorial Day Holiday
- Jun. 18: Juneteenth Holiday

Half Days
- Nov. 17: Grades Pre-K - 5
- Nov. 19: Grades Pe-K - 5
- Nov. 25: All Students Pre-K - 12
- Mar. 5: Grades Pe-K - 5
- Apr. 21: All Students Pre-K - 12
- May 19: All Students Pre-K - 12
- Jun. 24 - 25: Grades Pre-K - 8

Early Release
- Oct. 2: All students dismissed 15 minutes earlier than usual

Regents Exams
- Jan. 26 - 29
- Jun. 15 - 17
- Jun.21 - 24

Last Day of School
- Jun. 25

SHS Graduation
- Jun. 24

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	*3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

School Day Tally: 16

Sept. 7: Labor Day (District Offices Closed)
Sept. 8: First Day of Classes
Sept. 21: Yom Kippur (No School)

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Day Tally: 21

Oct. 2: Emergency Release Day (15 Minutes Earlier Than Usual)
Oct. 12: Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day (No School/District Offices Closed
Oct. 22: PSAT/SAT High SchoolCampuses

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

School Day Tally: 17

Nov. 3: Superintendent's Conference Day (No School)
Nov. 11: Veterans Day (No School/District Offices Closed)
Nov. 17: Parent/Teacher Conf Half Day (Pre-K - 5)
Nov. 19: Parent/Teacher Conf Half Day (Pre-K - 5)
Nov. 25: Half Day All Students
Nov. 26-27: Thanksgiving Break (No School/District Office Closed)

DECEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

School Day Tally: 17

Dec. 24- Jan. 1: Winter Recess (No School)
December 24 & 25: District Offices Closed

JANUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

School Day Tally: 19

Jan 1.: News Years Day (No School/District Offices Closed)
Jan 4.: Classes Resume
Jan. 18: Dr. Martin King Jr. Day (No School/District Offices Closed)
Jan. 26 - 29: Regents Examinations

FEBRUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

School Day Tally: 15

Feb. 15: Presidents Day (No School/District Offices Closed)
Feb. 15 - 19:. February Recess (No School)
Feb. 22: Classes Resume

MARCH 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

School Day Tally: 17

Mar. 5: Parent/Teacher Conf Half Day (Pre-K-5)
Mar. 10: Eid al-Fitr (No School)
Mar. 22: Holi/Phagwa (No School)
Mar. 26: Good Friday. (No School/District Offices Closed)
Mar. 29 - April 2: Spring Recess (No School)

APRIL 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

School Day Tally: 20

Apr. 1-2: Spring Recess (No School)
Apr. 5: Classes Resume
Apr. 21: Half Day All Students/PD Day for Staff in afternoon

MAY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

School Day Tally: 20

May 19: Half Day All Students/PD for Staff in Afternoon
May 31: Memorial Day (No School/District Offices Closed)

JUNE 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24*	25*	26
27	28	29	30			

School Day Tally: 18

Jun. 15-25: Regents Exams
Jun. 18: Junteenth (No School/District Offices Closed)
Jun. 24: 25: Grades Pre-K - 8 Half Day
Jun. 24: SHS Graduation
Jun 25: Last day of School (Half Day Grades Pre-K - 8)

Legend

- Opening/Last Day of School/Classes Resume
- Superintendent's Conference Day
- Half Day Pre-K - 5 /Parent Teacher Conferences
- High School Half Day
- Half Day All Students
- Regents Testing
- Observed Holiday/Recess School Not in Session
- Holiday/Schools & District Closed
- Emergency Early Release

Student Days: 180

Superintendent Conference Days: 4

Total School Days: 184

Emergency Closing/Snow Days: 3

TRANSLATION

The information contained in this packet is available in a web-based format for easy translation on the district and your school website.

La información contenida en este paquete está disponible en formato web para facilitar su traducción en el sitio web del distrito y de su escuela.

االمعلومات الواردة في هذه الحزمة متاحة بتنسيق ويب لسهولة الترجمة على موقع المنطقة وموقع مدرستك.

इस पैकेट में निहित जानकारी जिले और आपके स्कूल की वेबसाइट पर आसान अनुवाद के लिए वेब-आधारित प्रारूप में उपलब्ध है।

اس پیکٹ میں موجود معلومات ضلع اور آپ کے اسکول کی ویب سائٹ پر آسان ترجمے کے لیے ویب پر مبنی فارمیٹ میں دستیاب ہے۔

此包中包含的信息以基于网络的格式提供，以便在学区和学校网站上轻松翻译。

Thông tin trong tài liệu này có săn ở định dạng web để dễ dàng dịch trên trang web của quận và trường học của bạn.

Les informations contenues dans ce dossier sont disponibles dans un format Web pour une traduction facile sur le site Web du district et de votre école.

په دې پاکټ کې شامل معلومات په ویب بڼه کې د ولسوالۍ او ستاسو د ښوونځي په ویب پاڼه کې د اسانه ژباړې لپاره شتون لري.